



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,451	01/26/2001	Masanori Wakai	35.G2720	5447

5514 7590 02/22/2006

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JENNIFER T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2674

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/769,451

Applicant(s)

WAKAI ET AL.

Examiner

Jennifer T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6,153 and 155 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6,153,155 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to RCE filed on 12/06/2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4-6, 153, and 155 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasutake (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,261).

Regarding claims 1, 153, and 155, referring to Figs. 1-6, Yasutake teaches a position information processing apparatus (130) for processing position information comprising:

designated position detector means (i.e., CCD camera 110) (Fig. 1) for detecting a plurality of concurrently designated positions (i.e., control object 410, 415) (Fig. 4A) at a plurality of times, sequentially (i.e., new control object time and previous control object time);

identifying means (i.e., computer 250) for identifying, each time the concurrently designated positions (i.e., new control object) are detected, a corresponding one designated position (i.e., previous control object), from among the plurality of designated positions detected at a preceding time, having an area closest to an area (705) in size (Fig. 7b) (i.e., a contact area by a finger on a touch panel) of each of the plurality of designated positions detected at a current time (col. 3, line 41 to col. 4, line 23, col. 5, line 42 to col. 7, line 5, and col. 8, lines 56-58).

Yasutake differ from claims 1, 153, and 155 in that he does not specifically teach travel path recognizer means for recognizing respective travel paths of the plurality of designated

Art Unit: 2674

positions by recognizing each travel path which connects corresponding designated positions detected at the plurality of times. However, Yasutake suggests that the computer (250) can calculate the distance between all old objects detected at the previous time (before moving the fingers) and corresponding all new objects (that have newly appeared).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain travel path recognizer means for recognizing respective travel paths of the plurality of designated positions by recognizing a travel path from each of the plurality of designated positions detected at the preceding time to the corresponding one of the plurality of designated positions detected at the current time in order to provide interactive graphical user interface and perform an operation.

Regarding claim 4, Yasutake further teaches the designated position detector means (210) is a touch-panel-type detector means (from col. 3, line 41 to col. 4, line 23).

Regarding claim 5, Yasutake further teaches the designated position detector means (210) comprises: an image-pickup means (inside to CCD) for picking up a scene in which an operator designates a position; and a designated-position recognizer means (inside to CCD) for recognizing the designated position from the image of the scene picked up by the image-pickup means (from col. 3, line 41 to col. 4, line 23).

Regarding claim 6, Yasutake further teaches the designated position detector means detects the position of a fingertip of an operator (col. 4, lines 1-30).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicants' arguments filed 12/06/2005, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because as follows:

In response to Applicants' argument stated "Yasutake neither disclose or suggest identifying one designated position, from among a plurality of designated positions, having an area closet in size to an area of each of the plurality of designated positions as Yasutake operates on positional coordinates and not areas". Examiner respectfully disagrees. The designated area as defined in the specification of the present application is a contact area by a finger on a touch panel [0186]; Figs 12A and 12B shows the designated position is a point a(8,6). An enlarged view 1202 shows the touch state of the touch panel when the point a is pressed. The area of the designated position point is thus determined [0189]. Fig. 13A shows the current designated area 1 containing the point a(8,6) and a current designated area 2 containing the point b(8,8). An area closet in size to an area of each of the plurality of designated positions is designated area at time t5, immediately preceding designated area 1. The calculation is based on the coordinates of points [0021]-[0024].

As similarly, Yasutake teaches finger touch points 705, 710, and 715 as current designated areas containing the coordinate point. Yasutake teaches the feature of identifying one designated position (i.e., previous control object) detected at a previous time that corresponds to each of a plurality of designated positions (i.e., new control object) detected at a current time (col. 7, lines 1-18), based on areas of the designated positions (Fig. 7b); wherein the designated positions such as control objects 705, 710, and 715 are represented by "spots", of varying size and shape (col. 8, lines 56-58). The calculation is based on the objects that contain the coordinates of points.

Art Unit: 2674


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer T Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7696. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick N. Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JNguyen
2/13/2006


PATRICK N. EDOUARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER